

**Testimony**  
**Engrossed House Bill No. 1588**  
**Senate Judiciary Committee**  
**Senator Larson, Chairman**  
March 31, 2025

Chairman Larson, and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I am Jonathan Alm, Chief Legal Officer with the Department of Health and Human Services (Department). I appear before you in opposition to Engrossed House Bill No. 1588 as it removes the prohibition on possessing a firearm or dangerous weapon at a publicly owned or operated building.

Engrossed House Bill No. 1588 would allow firearms or dangerous weapons in public buildings, which would include the North Dakota State Hospital, Life Skills and Transition Center, and at the State's Human Service Centers and satellite locations (Behavioral Health Clinics). If Engrossed House Bill No. 1588 passes in its current form, I cannot think of another mechanism in place that would allow the State to prohibit firearms or dangerous weapons to be in the possession of individuals, including patients who are severely mentally ill or violent, within the walls of the North Dakota State Hospital, Life Skills and Transition Center, and at the State's Human Service Centers and satellite locations.

This concludes my testimony. I would be happy to try to answer any questions the committee may have. Thank you.